

REMARKS

The *Ex parte Quayle* Office Action mailed March 25, 2004, has been reviewed and the Examiner's comments have been carefully considered. The drawings have been amended. In view of the foregoing amendments and the reasons that follow, the application is submitted for reconsideration.

Allowed Claims

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the allowance of claims 19-38.

Objection to the Drawings

The Office Action Summary indicates that "[t]he drawings filed on 20 September 2003 are objected to by the Examiner." However, Applicants note that no drawings were filed on September 20, 2003. In contrast, original drawings were filed on September 20, 2000, and amended formal drawings were filed on May 6, 2003. For purposes of this response, Applicants assume that the objection applies to the drawings filed May 6, 2003.

The drawings are objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) for failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. (Office Action at p. 2.) The Office Action asserts that the drawings fail to show the following features: (1) means for relatively displacing the piezoelectric micropipette; (2) stepper or DC motor; (3) refrigeration tray; (4) coordination device; (5) piezoelectric micropipette with two conducting parts separated by a nonconducting material, which are linked at the upper part to an electrical system; (6) vessels disposed in proximity to the removable plate for samples; and (7) means for triggering discharge of the micropipette.

Regarding items (1) and (2), Applicants note that Fig. 1 includes the claimed stepper or DC motor 195. The stepper or DC motor 195 can be used in conjunction with the motorized rigs 102 and 103 and the bench 101 as the means for relatively displacing the piezoelectric micropipettes and the sample plat, as explained in the specification at page 9, line 30 to page 10, line 20.

Regarding item (3), Applicants note that Fig. 2 includes the refrigeration tray 131c.

Regarding item (4), Fig. 1 has been amended to show the coordination device 163. The specification has been amended accordingly. Support for the amendment is found in the specification at page 12, line 36 to page 13, line 12.

Regarding item (5), Fig. 4 has been added to show the piezoelectric micropipettes 141, 142 with two conducting parts 240a separated by a nonconducting material 240b, which are linked at the upper part to an electrical system 250. The specification has been amended accordingly. Support for the amendment is found in the specification at page 13, lines 28-37.

Regarding item (6), Applicants note that Fig. 1 includes reference numerals 151 and 152, which represent the claimed vessels, as explained in the specification at page 8, lines 24-31.

Regarding item (7), Applicants note that Fig. 1 includes the stepper or DC motor 195, which comprises a means for triggering discharge of the micropipette, as explained in the specification at page 11, lines 19-32.

Withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants believe that the application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested. If there are any questions regarding the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the phone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

6/24/04

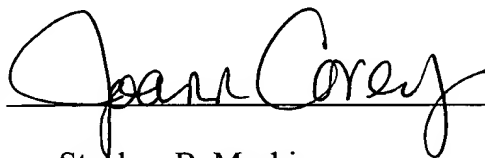
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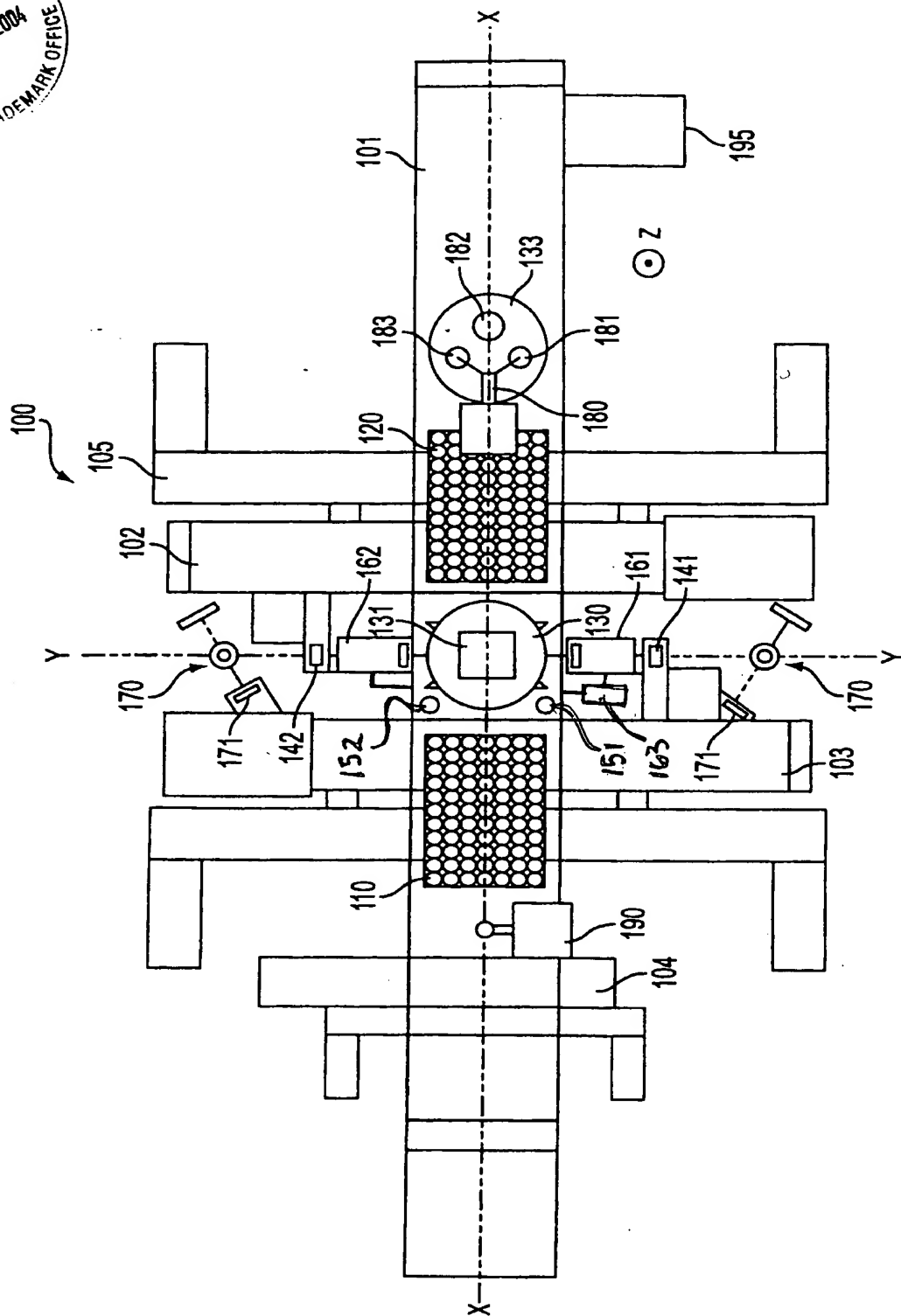


FIG. 1

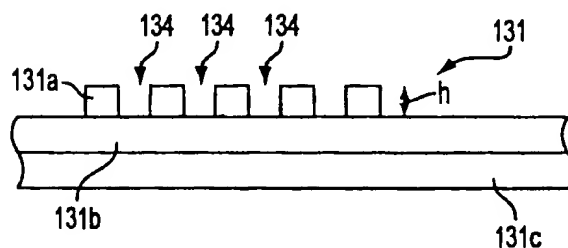


FIG. 2

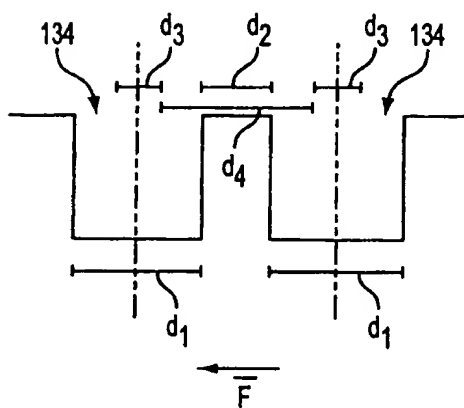


FIG. 3

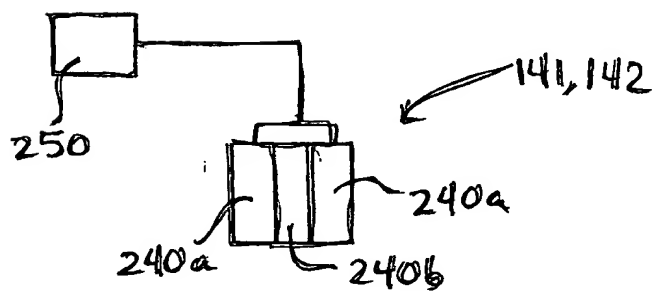


FIG. 4